

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A printing system comprising:

a client having character image information generation means for generating character image information representing desired characters and/or a desired simple image by receiving an input of the character and/or the simple image, wherein the character image information generation means describes the character image information in order information representing the content of a printing order of the image data; and

a laboratory server having information printing means for printing the character and/or the simple image at a predetermined position on a print based on the character image information provided from the client, at the time of printing image data, wherein the information printing means prints the character and/or the simple image at the predetermined position of the print based on the order information.

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A printing system as defined in Claim 1, wherein,

in the case where the content of the printing order specifies generation of a plurality of prints of the same image data, the character image information generation means enables setting the character image information for each of the prints, and

the information printing means prints the character and/or the simple image represented by the character image information set for each of the prints on the predetermined position of each of the prints.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A printing system as defined in Claim 1, wherein, in the case where the content of the printing order specifies printing of a plurality of sets of the image data, the character image information generating means enables setting one item of the character image information for all prints and the information printing means prints the character and/or the simple image represented by the character image information at the predetermined position of each of the prints.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A printing system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the client and the laboratory server comprise storage means for storing a table relating a predetermined character and/or a predetermined simple image to code information representing a kind of the character and/or the simple image.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A printing system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the client and the laboratory server are connected to each other via a network.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A print order method comprising the steps of: generating character image information representing desired characters and/or a desired simple image by receiving an input of the character and/or the simple image; and

printing the character and/or the simple image at a predetermined position of a print based on the character image information when image data are printed, wherein the character image information is described in order information representing the content of a printing order of the image data.

8. (CANCELLED)

9. (ORIGINAL) A print order method as defined in Claim 6, wherein, in the case where the content of the printing order specifies generation of a plurality of prints of the same image data, the character image information is set for each of the prints.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A print order method as defined in Claim 7, wherein, in the case where the content of the printing order specifies printing of a plurality of sets of the image data, one item of the character image information is set for all the prints.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A print order method as defined in Claim 7, wherein the desired character and/or the desired simple image are input as code information representing a kind of a predetermined character and/or a predetermined simple image.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A print order apparatus used in the print order method defined in Claim 7, the print order apparatus comprising:

character image information generation means for generating the character image information representing the desired character and/or the desired simple image by receiving the input of the character and/or the simple image.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A printing apparatus used in the print order method defined in Claim 7, the printing apparatus comprising:

information printing means for printing the character and/or the simple image at the predetermined position of the print based on the character image information when the image data are printed.

14. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program used in the print order method defined in Claim 7, the program comprising the procedure of:

generating the character image information representing the desired character and/or the desired simple image by receiving the input of the character and/or the simple image.

15. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program used in the print order method defined in Claim 7, the program comprising the procedure of:

printing the character and/or the simple image at the predetermined position of the print based on the character image information when the image data are printed.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A printing system as defined in Claim 3, wherein the client and the laboratory server comprise storage means for storing a table relating a predetermined character and/or a predetermined simple image to code information representing a kind of the character and/or the simple image.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A printing system as defined in Claim 4, wherein the client and the laboratory server comprise storage means for storing a table relating a predetermined character and/or a predetermined simple image to code information representing a kind of the character and/or the simple image.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A printing system as defined in Claim 3, wherein the client and the laboratory server are connected to each other via a network.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A printing system as defined in Claim 4, wherein the client and the laboratory server are connected to each other via a network.

20. (NEW) A printing system comprising:

a client terminal device having a character image information generation device for generating character image information representing desired characters and/or a desired simple image by receiving an input of the character and/or the simple image, wherein the character image information generation device describes the character image information in order information representing the content of a printing order of the image data; and

a laboratory server having an information printing device for printing the character and/or the simple image at a predetermined position on a print based on the character image information provided from the client terminal device, at the time of printing image data, wherein the information printing device prints the character and/or the simple image at the predetermined position of the print based on the order information.

21. (NEW) A printing system as defined in Claim 20, wherein the client and the laboratory server are connected to each other via a network.

22. (NEW) The printing system as defined in Claim 20, wherein the character image information is provided to the laboratory server via a network or is recorded in a recording medium.

23. (NEW) The printing system as defined in Claim 20, wherein the order information includes at least one of a processing number indicating a content of a print service, an image number specifying a photograph, a print size, a quantity of prints, a quality of printing paper, a thickness of the paper, a content of a photographic processing, and a trimming specification.

24. (NEW) The printing system as defined in Claim 20, wherein the desired characters include at least one of a user-designated character for printing on a print when the user requests printing of the image data from the laboratory, a character and a character string.

25. (NEW) The printing system as defined in Claim 20, wherein the desired simple image is an image a user wishes to print on a print at the time of requesting printing of the image data from the laboratory server.

26. (NEW) The printing system as defined in Claim 20, wherein, in the case where the content of the printing order specifies generation of a plurality of prints of the same image data, the character image information generation device enables setting the character image information for each of the prints, and the information printing device prints the character and/or the simple image represented by the character image information set for each of the prints on the predetermined position of each of the prints.

27. (NEW) The printing system as defined in Claim 20, wherein, in the case where the content of the printing order specifies printing of a plurality of sets of the image data, the character image information generating device enables setting one item of the character image information for all prints and the information printing device prints the character and/or the simple image represented by the character image information at the predetermined position of each of the prints.

28. (NEW) A printing system as defined in Claim 20, wherein the client terminal device and the laboratory server comprise a storage device for storing a table relating a predetermined character and/or a predetermined simple image to code information representing a kind of the character and/or the simple image.